

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

The specification and drawing have been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

Claim 10, which originally depended directly from independent claim 9, has been found contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly the subject matter of claim 9 has been inserted into claim 10, making it and claims 11-13 depending from claim 10 allowable.

Similarly claim 18, which originally depended via claim 16 and 17 from independent claim 9, has also been found to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly the subject matter of claims 9, 16, and 17 has been inserted into claim 18, making it and claims 19 and 20 depending from claim 18 also allowable.

There are still less than four independent claims and less than 21 claims overall, so no extra fee is entailed.

Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 16, which has been canceled.

The subject matter of claims 9 and 16 stand rejected on the three-barrel combination of US 4,135,477 of Ridley, US 6,146,708 of Kamitani (both supplied by application as APA), and US 4,659,302 of Maejima.

Ridley shows a standard curtain coater. There are no shiftable edge guides and no central feed of the treatment liquid.

Kamitani is not a curtain coater. Here also there is nothing resembling central feed of the hopper chamber.

Maejima is not a coater of any type. Instead this is a downwardly open extruder whose chamber is filled with a pressurized but viscous mass. But for the pressurization there would be no flow. Under any circumstances here there are no edge guides as in claim 9, much less adjustable ones.

Thus, even overlooking the nonanalogous nature of the Maejima reference, nothing here shows a system with adjustable edge guides on a curtain coater. Thus claim 9 is allowable over this art under §103.

For these reasons all the claims in the case are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this

case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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